The People's Korea

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LET'S MARCH FORWARD TOWARD GREATER VICTORY IN 7-YEAR PLAN

NEW YEAR MESSAGE BY PREMIER KIM IL SUNG

(KNS-Tokyo) The Cabinet of the DPRK gave a reception on Jan. 1 in celebration of the New Year. Attending the reception were Premier Kim Il Sung and other Party and Government leaders, leaders of various other circles, many labour innovators and all the participants in the recent National Conference of Enthusiastic Peasants.

Following the New Year's Eve bell ringing in the New Year 1961—a year promising happiness and victory—Marshal Kim Il Sung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party and Premier, read the following New Year message addressed to all the Korean people amidst thunderous applause:

Dear comrades!

Today we, Korean people, have seen the year 1960 out—a year during which we did plenty of work for the flourishing and prosperity of the fatherland and attained great achievements—to greet the new year 1961 with ever greater courage and conviction looking out a new brilliant prospect of socialist construction.

Greeting the new year, I would like to extend the most heartfelt congratulations and greetings to workers, peasants, working intelligentzia and all the other Korean people, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party and of the Government of the Republic.

Last year, our working people, under the leadership of the Party, accomplished splendidly the tasks of consolidating the achievements attained in the fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan and of preparing for successful fulfilment of the new Seven-Year Plan. Enormous achievements were registered in all the branches of the national economy, in industry and agriculture, and remarkable progress was made in all the fields of socialist construction.

Last year, our industrial production increased by 16 per cent as against 1959 and 6.4 times the prewar 1949 level.

The technical equipment of the industry was successfully carried out, factories and enterprises were improved or expanded, and new factories built in large numbers. Encouraged immensely by the appeal of the Party "Think boldly and practise boldly", our working class and other toiling people turned out 3,000 tractors and 3,000 automobiles, for the first time in our country. Moreover, they raised production capacity to 7,000 tractors and 7,000 automobiles, annually. Furthermore, they succeeded in producing new industrial products of various kinds, including up-to-date machines and installations. Thus, we have established powerful foundations for a modern socialistic industry.

In the countryside, the task raised by the Party of mechanizing the rural economy is successfully being carried out. Farming villages have been supplied with several thousands of tractors and tens of thousands of various advanced farm machines, with the result that agricultural productivity is rapidly developing and growing.

Following the example of "the Chung San Ri Agricultural Cooperative," the entire peasantry made rapid progress in agricultural production. Last year, we produced 3,803,000 tons of grain despite unfavourable weather conditions. This was 1.6 times the pre-liberation level and a good harvest unprecedented in the history of our country.

Excellent results were obtained in stock-farming and other branches of the rural economy.

Carrying out a policy of the Party "Utilize Mountains," agricultural cooperatives in mountainous areas rapidly developed agricultural production and increased the production of subsidiary products, thereby improving the living standard of cooperative members as well as that of peasants on the plains. As a result, the economic foundations of our country have been further consolidated and our people have grown richer.

Marshal Kim Il Sung

Everyone is greatly rejoiced over and satisfied with the fact that in our country things have changed and are changing for the better day after day and year after year.

We have built material and technical foundations for successfully carrying out the new, glorious task of socialist construction and have been armed with sufficient political and ideological preparations.

All the achievements we have attained, signifying a great victory for the policies of our Party, are the fruits of heroic struggle of our people, who are marching forward, surmounting all obstacles under the leadership of the Party.

All the people are strongly united around the Party, experiencing with the whole of their bodies the invincible vitality of the Party's policies and drawing inexhaustible strength, courage and conviction from it.

Seeing the year 1960 out, I heartily express warm gratitude to our heroic working class, industrious peasants in cooperatives, talented intelligentzia and all the other toiling people, who have rendered great service to the prosperity and development of the fatherland and are continuously advancing along the road of socialism with the enthusiasm of "Flying Horse Riders."

Comrades!

The year 1960 also marked a turning-point in the struggle of the South Korean people against U. S. imperialism and its puppets.

Encouraged by the gigantic achievements of socialist construction in the northern part of the Republic, the South Korean people overthrew the the Syngman Rhee puppet regime through their heroic struggle, demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of the Korean people. Today, the struggle of the masses for a new life and a new system is undergoing a new upsurge in South Korea.

The new program for the unification of the country advanced by our Party and the proposals, based on this program, of the Eighth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly have aroused a great response in South Korea. And these are widely supported by various sections of the people.

The South Korean authorities, yet incapable of solving the urgent question of the living of the South Korean people, are still unable to make a reply to our new program.

The South Korean rulers are maneuvering to deceive the people and are continuously suppressing them. However, U. S. imperialism and its puppets cannot curb the people's struggle, whatever recourse they may resort to. The struggle of the South Korean people for the withdrawal of the U. S. aggressive forces and for economic interchange between South and North Korea and for a unified fatherland will develop further hereafter. All the patriotic forces of South Korea, including workers and peasants, will win true freedom and happiness by unitedly waging a decisive struggle against the U. S. imperialists and their camp-followers — landlords, bureaucrats and compradore capitalists.

I extend New Year greetings and send words of enthusiastic encouragement from the people of the northern part of Korea to the South Korean people struggling stubbornly against the oppressors and wish them a great victory in their future struggle.

On behalf of the Korean Workers' Party and the Government of the Republic, I extend New Year congratulations and greetings also to 600,000 Korean citizens in Japan struggling positively for their national rights and for peaceful unification of our fatherland and to all the Korean citizens in other foreign countries. At the same time, I heartily hope the Korean citizens in Japan will come back to their fatherland as soon as possible through the continuous and successful progress of the repatriation work.

In 1960, the forces of peace and socialism won a new victory in the international arena. The Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and all the other socialist countries have attained enormous achievements in their economic and cultural development. The might of the Socialist Camp has rapidly grown and its unity has been strengthened. Peoples' struggle for peace, national independence and social progress is surging all over the world. The outcome of the Conference of the Representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties held in Moscow is a new victory of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, demonstrating to the whole world the unity of the Socialist Camp and the solidarity of the international communist movement.

The statement and appeal adopted at the Conference are encouraging immeasurably the struggle of the working class and peoples of the world for peace, national independence and socialism. At the same time, these documents dealt a great blow to the imperialists headed by the U. S. and their lackeys.

Today, all the situation is taking a turn more favourable to the struggle of the peoples of the world and to the struggle of our people as well.

The Korean Workers' Party and the Korean people will do their utmost, as they did in the past, to strengthen the solidarity with the peoples of their fraternal socialist countries and with all the communist and workers' parties of the world and to consolidate further the unity of the Socialist Camp and strengthen the solidarity of the international communist movement. We will also increase our solidarity with the peace-loving people of the world and struggle for a lasting peace of the world.

Dear comrades!

In the year 1961, we start our glorious struggle to fulfil the Seven-Year Plan, a magnificent program for the socialist construction of our country. During the period of the Seven-Year Plan, we should equip all the branches of the national economy with modern techniques and improve by leaps and bounds the material and cultural living standard of our people by realizing all-out socialist industrialization. When this task is fulfilled, our country will be a well-developed industrialized socialist country, our cities and farming villages will be built more beautifully and our people will lead a richer and happier life.

The new year 1961 is the the starting year of the struggle for fulfilling this large-scale prospective task set before us.

Whether the 1961 plan is successfully fulfilled or not has an extremely important bearing on the successful fulfilment of the Seven-Year Plan as a whole.

All the working people should display all their energies and ability exhaustively to accomplish this important and glorious task triumphantly. The December Enlarged Plenum of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party made clear the principal tasks of the 1961 plan and measures to be taken for their accomplishment, on the basis of the fundamental course of the Seven-Year Plan, especially on the basis of the tasks to be performed during the first three years of the Seven-Year Plan.

This year, in heavy industries efforts should be concentrated upon producing machines and equipments needed for continuously promoting the mechanization of the rural economy and fishery; and efforts should be also made for equipping local industries with more advanced techniques. More chemical industry factories, including vinylon-manufacturing factories, should be constructed to create a solid base of raw materials needed for the development

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of light industries.

Metal factories should produce various steel materials and more metal products such as steel pipes, wires, ropes and so forth. And we should continuously expand the mines and further strengthen the base of fuel and power.

In light industries, we should concentrate greater strength upon the production of the people's consumption goods to meet varied needs of the toiling people. We should produce in large quantities various daily necessaries, including many kinds of fabric and footwear of good quality. We should expand the foodstuff processing industry on a large scale. Especially, we should decisively boost the production of edible oil.

In fishery, we should further expand the output of marine products by carrying out the Party's policy of further mechanizing fisheries and of simultaneously developing ocean and deep-sea fishing and medium and small fishing operations. At the same time, we should promote sea fish- and fresh water fish-breeding.

The development of the rural economy is exceedingly important for the improvement of the people's life and for socialist construction in general. In the rural economy, we should develop to a higher level stock-farming and the other branches of the rural economy, laying stress on the production of grain.

The most important goal to be attained this year in the rural economy is to increase the production of cereals by one million tons compared with last year. If we fulfil this task, a great change will be brought about in the rural economy of our country. We should concentrate our efforts on the production of cereals to accomplish this task successfully.

All farming cooperatives should continuously make the most of the experience of "the Chung San Ri Cooperative" and thoroughly realize it in real life. First of all, we should carry out strongly the mechanization of the rural economy, expand farm-land, improve sterile farm-land and raise coefficient of utilization of farm-land.

We should introduce all the advanced farming methods more widely, improve and select seeds, produce more barnyard manure and apply chemical fertilizers properly. Furthermore, we should cultivate land and sow seeds at a proper time and, after planting, weed grass often and well in order to grow crops well.

This year, we should win a still greater victory in all the branches of the rural economy, including grain production, stock-farming, silk-raising, fruit-growing and so forth.

In the field of the basic construction, we should concentrate our strength on the construction of production facilities. At the same time, we should also carry out housing projects and construct educational and cultural establishments. In order to improve the quality of construction and to speed up construction work, we should expand the building material manufacturing industry and continuously and vigorously carry out the mechanization of construction work.

Production increase and economy are decisive factors for successfully accomplishing the 1961 plan and the Seven-Year Plan as a whole. We should fully mobilize all the reserves for production increase and practise economy in all the branches of the national economy.

We should bring about ceaseless technical innovation, try all means available to raise labour productivity, expand the variety of goods, improve the quality of goods and cut production cost and lower cost price systematically.

The appeal of the Party "Produce more with any available labour and facilities," must be a militant slogan of all the working people.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party held in December of 1956 became a turning point in the struggle to tide over the first obstacle in the way of the Five-Year Plan and to bring about a great change in socialist construction. Likewise, we should make the December 1960 Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party a turning point for a victory in the first battle for the fulfilment of the Seven-Year Plan as well as one for a new upsurge in socialist construction.

The new magnificent prospect of socialist construction promising the flourishing and development of the fatherland and the prosperity of the nation, is evoking unprecedented energies and courage among our working people, inspring them to a heroic labour struggle. At present, the morale of our working people is rising to the skies. They are firmly determined to fulfil the heroic task set by the Party and are fully convinced of their capacity to do so.

All our experience shows that there is not anything that we cannot carry out, when our Party makes a decision and when our working people are firmly resolved to put it into paractise. Surely, our people will triumphantly surmount the first peak in the year 1961 to open up a broad path to a successful fulfilment of the Seven-Year Plan.

Let us be firmly united around our Party, march forward boldly for a victory in the first battle for the fulfilment of the Seven-Year Plan, toward the high peak of socialism, holding the Flying Horse by the bridle!

Comrades!

Greeting the New Year, I would like to propose a toast for a happier life of our workers, peasants, working intelligentzia and the entire people, for a new victory in the struggle of our people for socialist construction, for peaceful unification of the country, for a boundless flourishing and prosperity of our fatherland, for an invincible unity of the Socialist Camp, for the growth of its might and for a lasting peace of the world.

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Editorial

Greeting the New Year of 1961

Greeting the New Year of 1961, the Korean people are firmly convinced of the greater victory. This is because we have started the first year of the Seven-Year Plan aimed at changing our land into fully-developed industrialized socialist country, and making the people's living more prosperous so that we may open a new way to the peaceful unification of our fatherland.

However, we are still confronted by a terrible misfortune resulting from the artificial splitting of the fatherland and of the people.

Therefore, all the Korean people are fighting for the only rational and realistic program for peaceful unification of the fatherland, economic and cultural interchange and exchange of letters as well as free traffic between North and South Korea. This program was proposed at the Eighth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly held in the end of last November.

In the northern part of the Republic, entitled to free medical treatment, everyone is enjoying a happy life, free from worries about food, clothes, house and job. His children receive free education.

However, the South Korean people greet the New Year with misery and want.

Even at this moment, millions of jobless persons, hungry peasants, war widows and orphans, deprived of the means of subsistence, are roaming aimlessly in the streets. Moreover, not a day passes there without many people killing themselves or starving to death owing to the difficulties of living.

This miserable situation of South Korea can be solved only when the U. S. imperialist forces are evacuated from South Korea, putting an end to the split of the fatherland. This is the only solution to the economic catastrophe of South Korea.

Acting at the beck and call of the U. S. imperialists, the Chang Myun clique is frantically insisting that they could save South Korea from the current economic crisis through U. S. "aid" or by introducing capital from Japanese or West German militarists.

The South Korean people understand well that dependence on the U.S. leads to the sacrifice of national independence and prevents their economy from achieving a sound and independent development.

Therefore, at the beginning of the New Year, not only the masses but politicians in South Korea such as Chung Huen Ju, Chief Cabinet Secretary of the South Korean regime and Suh Min Ho, Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly, are taking a stand for purely economic and cultural interchange between North and South, on the condition that such an interchange is not implicated with political problems. At the end of last year, 68 delegates from South Korean political parties and social organizations formed the "Central Council for National Independence and Unification" and issued a statement declaring "There can be no complete independence and unification without interchange of goods between North and South."

Apart from differences of political opinion, religion and property, all the Korean people should combine their every possible power for the unification of the fatherland.

We firmly believe that this year, too, the peace-loving peoples of the world will continue to give their support to this just cause of the Korean people.

Dec. Plenum Defines Major Task In 1st Yr. of 7-Year Plan

【KNS-Tokyo】 The Enlarged Plenum of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, held in Pyongyang from Dec. 20 to 23 last year, emphasized that the policy decided by the December 1959 Plenum of concentrating efforts on the development of agriculture as the central task in the 1960 "Adjustment Period" had been correct; and that this policy had produced a major change in the development of agriculture.

The Plenum made the following points clear in its resolution regarding agricultural question:

Last year, 103,000 Chungbo of arable land were newly brought under cultivation. The cereals sown area increased by 653,000 Chungbo (one Chungbo —2.45 acres), raising the land utilization rate by 17 per cent.

The major question of "Adjustment Period" has been successfully solved by promoting the mechanization of agriculture. Compared with 1959, rice crop from paddy-fields advanced by 11 percent, wheat and soybean crop by 17 per cent and 15 per cent, with the result that the cereals harvested totaled 3,803,000 tons. The crop of vegetables by 50 per cent as compared with 1959.

As a result of this remarkable increase in agricultural production, farmers' general living standard has been raised to that of a middle-class farmer or rich middle-class, each farming household obtaining an average allotment of 2.1 tons of grain and 540 kg of potatoes and earning 300 Won on the average.

The Plenum, based on the favorable results obtained last year, decided to launch a mass movement to increase this year's total grain crop by more than one million tons. Increase by one million tons—this is the most important struggle in agriculture.

The Plenum proposed the following as important tasks: To increase the production of tractors and other agricultural machines, to improve their quality, to produce fittings of various kinds, to guarantee satisfactory repair work on tractors, to heighten the capacity of machine tractor stations, and to increase their importance.

Heung Nam fertilizer factory

On the other hand, Plenum decided to increase total industrial output this year by 16 per cent and consumer goods by 25.2 percent, cmpared with the last year's estimated production.

The Plenum decided to achieve the following targets as this year's principal tasks of the heavy industry through better adjustment and effective use of the existing industrial bases:

1. To accomplish mechanization of agriculture, fishery and local industries.

2. To construct in large number chemical industry plants, including vinylon works, in order to create a base for supplying light industries with raw materials.

3. To expand production facilities at metal manufacturing plants and mines, and to strengthen the bases for the production of fuel and power.

In conclusion, the Plenum expressed the conviction of successful achievement of these tasks in the following words:

The December 1960 Plenum will be an encouragement to the entire Party and the people in their struggle for production increase and economy and will be a turning point in fulfilling the historic task of reaching the summit of the Seven-Year Plan, just as the December 1956 Plenum opened the way for the present "Flying Horse" advance.

SOUTH-NORTH INTERCHANGE & NEGOTIATIONS ARE INEVITABLE!

Supporting the proposals of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the South Korean people are strongly demanding South-North interchange and negotiation with every passing day.

Central Council For Independent Unification Started

Sixty-eight noted South Korean politicians and democratic leaders met on Dec. 27 in Seoul and organized a preparatory committee for the Central Council for National Unification.

Taking part in the meeting were such noted politicians as Kim Chang Suk, Chang Keun Sang and Kim Sung Suk. They are known for their stand for independent and peaceful unification of South and North Korea.

The preparatory committee elected Kim Chang Suk chairman and Chang Keun Sang vice-chairman. The statement issued by the committee said in part that "without interchange of South Korean farm goods with North Korean heavy industrial products, complete unification and independence of the country is impossible." And it demanded the present South Korean authorities "to realize exchange of letters and cultural interchange, etc., between South and North."

Kim Chang Suk, chairman of the preparatory committee, stressed that South Korea should put an end to dependence upon foreign "aid" and realize interchange of South Korean agricultural produce with North Korean industrial goods. "By doing so," he went on, "we can achieve economic rehabilitation and complete independence, and our economic freedom ensured in both name and reality." He continued, "In view of the complicated political situation in which we find ourselves today, we should realize at least exchange of letters and free travel between South and North, apart from politics and economy even before the unification of the country in order to put an end to the unnatural situation in which we are unnecessarily concerned about the safety of our relations.

Further, Song Nam Heun, Ryu Byung Muk, Kim Sung Suk and other members of the preparatory committee also emphasized that a nationwide movement should be launched with the purpose of achieving the task of unifying the country.

A spokesman for the preparatory committee said that the committee will represent all the sections of the people in the future and launch a positive compaign to push mutual contacts and economic and cultural interchange between South and North.

Rodong Shinmoon, organ of Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, welcomed the assertions and moves of these South Korean politicians and various parties and factions, saying "We are ready to march forward hand in hand with anybody who comes out in support of economic and cultural interchange between South and North and of peaceful unification of the fatherland.

Socialist Party Bids 5-points "Supra-Partisan Program" for Unification

【Pyongyang, Jan. 4, Korean Central News Agency】 On Jan. 3, a spokesman for the Socialist Party of South Korea said in an informal talk that negotiations between South and North are "desirable", according to a Dongyang Tongshin report from Seoul.

The spokesman hailed Chung Heun Ju's statement to the effect that South-North negotiations are to be welcomed, adding that this statement was an instance to show a victory of public opinion demanding social reforms.

He proposed the following five-points "supra-partisan practical program" for the realization of the unification of the country:

1. "To hold preliminary talks of the representatives of political parties, social organizations, learned circles, the press and economic leaders for establishing a supra-partisan research organ to study the question of the unification of the country.

2. To make efforts to grasp actual political, economic and cultural conditions by exchanging inspection teams between South and North Korea.

3. To solve the urgent question of power in South and save poverty-stricken rural villages by exchanging South Korean agricultural produce with North Korean fertilizer and electricity.

4. To realize immediately cultural interchange and exchange of letters.

5. To hold South-North negotiations in order to realize the above-mentioned aims.

S.Korean Political Circles Welcome Non-Governmental Negotiation

【Pyongyang, Jan. 4, Korean Central News Agency】 Chung Heun Ju, "Chief Cabinet Secretary" of the South Korean authorities, has recently told in a press conference that South Korea should "welcome in principle" the efforts of "non-governmental organizations such as political parties" to negotiate with North Korea on economic interchange, Hapdong Tongshin reported from Seoul.

This report carried by a certain daily newspaper on Jan. 2 aroused great interest among various South Korean circles.

On Jan. 3, a spokesman for the Socialist Party welcomed Chung's announcement in an informal statement. On the same day, Yun Kil Jung, former secretary general of the defunct Progressive Party, welcoming the statement, said: "It is quite reasonable that the representatives of non-governmental organizations of South and North establish mutual contacts for the unification of the country. He added he would make such a proposal himself at a proper time. Yun is at present a Lower House member belonging to the Minjung Club.

Meanwhile, Suh Min Ho, "Vice-Speaker" of the "Lower House", made it clear in a press conference on Jan. 4, that he "agreed to negotiation for the unification by the representatives of political parties or non-governmental persons of both South and North Korea," Hapdong Tongshin reported from Seoul. He also said that exchange of letters and cultural interchange between South and North should be realized.

Dispatch of Economic Mission to N.Korea Proposed

(KNS—Tokyo) Chung Hai Yung, Vice-chairman of the Policy Board of the New People's Party, proposed a plan to dispatch an economic inspection mission to North Korea as a preliminary step toward discussing the unification of South and North.

He said that such a mission should be composed of South Korean business leaders.

The plan attracted public attention as it was made public at a time when Assemblymen Kim Do Yun, Suh Min Ho, Ryang Il Dong and many others of the New People's Party were urging the exchange of press reporters and stressing the need for cultural exchange as a first step in South-North interchange.

While these leaders of the New People's Party are insisting on a policy of promoting South-North interchange program, Assemblyman Ryu Jin San, secretary general of the party, is evading the question, saying, "We should be more prudent," "It is still premature."

He made it clear, however, that he had an intention to set up within his party a committee to study the question of South-North unification.

Japan Socialist Party Opposes Accord With South Korea Alone

The Japan Socialist Party issued a statement on Jan. 3 opposing the present policy of the Japanese Government on establishment of formal diplomatic relations with South Korea. The text of the statement follows:

The so-called "Japan-ROK Talks", intermittently held several times in the past, has taken a sudden turn toward an agreement, with the formation of the Ikeda Cabinet of Japan and the Chang Myun regime of South Korea serving as a turning point. As a result, "the normalization of diplomatic relations" between Japan and South Korea is expected to be realized toward April prior to the solution of various pending questions.

In the name of "normalization," the Japanese Government intends to establish diplomatic relations with the South Korean regime by disregarding the existence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and to recognize the "Republic of Korea" as the sole legitimate regime representing the whole of Korea, acting on an unilateral UN resolution of 1947 sponsored by the U. S.

Such a policy involves the danger of leading Japan to a military alliance with South Korea and Taiwan to serve the U. S. strategic interests in the Far East.

It is clear that such a "normalization" of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea will result in consolidating the split of Korea into South and North, hampering the unification of the country—the strongest desire of the Korean nation—and seriously threatening the peace of Asia.

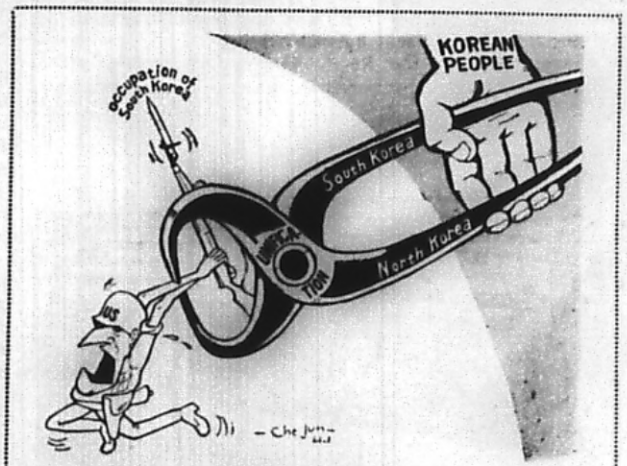
Furthermore, the current „Japan-ROK Talks" are aimed at solving problems affecting the whole of Korea, such as "property claims," "legal status of Korean citizens in Japan," etc. This is unjust since the "ROK" does not represent the whole of Korea. At the same time, this is absolutely intolerable in view of a military background of "Japan-ROK Talks."

Our party holds that the Korean question should be solved in such a way as to promote the peaceful unification of South and North Korea and contribute to the peace and security in Asia.

Toward this end, it is necessary to carry out positively economic and cultural interchange between South and North Korea in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere.

The question of the so-called "Rhee-Line" is a question of fishery, pure and simple, to be solved between Japan and Korea. This question should be discussed and solved at an early date through negotiations between Japan and Korea in accordance with international law, taking into consideration the guarantee of safe operation for Japanese fishermen.

Furthermore, we cannot approve of a plan to retain virtually the "Rhee-Line" as a defense line of the "ROK," as such a policy is tantamount to recognizing the unilateral rights and interests of the "ROK" on the open sea and will result in continuously putting a curb on Japanese fishing activities.



Korea is one!

Two Entirely Different Education Systems in North & South Korea

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North Korea

In December, 1946, the Party and the people's regime established a new democratic school education system after rooting out the vestiges of colonial enslavement in the education system. A large sum of money was allocated out of the budget every year to build schools of all levels on a large scale, while the people participated positively in building schools with patriotic enthusiasm.

The 2,300,000 illiterates left in the wake of Japanese colonial rule had all learned to read by 1948, the third post-liberation year.

During the war, the U. S. imperialists destroyed by barbarous bombing 5,169 schools, that is, practically all the schools in North Korea.

The Party and the people's regime rebuilt educational establishments in a short period of three years. The universal compulsory primary school education system—a long-cherished desire of the Korean people—which was postponed due to the war was enforced in 1956.

With the socialist construction progressing successfully, universal compulsory middle school education system was realized in November of 1958 for the first time in the Orient.

Forty-one institutions of higher learning were newly built last year under the slogan "Educate more, quickly and well" to educate engineers, technicians and specialists needed for the fulfilment of the magnificent Seven-Year Plan. This increased the number of institutions of higher learning to 78 and the number of students enrolled to nearly 100,000.

In the northern part of the Republic, everyone has the opportunity of learning at school. At present, more than 2,540,000 persons, nearly one-fourth of the population, are learning at 8,400 schools of all levels, including institutions of higher learning. As a result of the total abolition of tuition fees in April, 1959, everyone receives education free of charge. Furthermore, the people's regime provides the students of special schools and higher educational institutions with scholarships and all the students and pupils with uniforms and school things.

Happy life of schoolgirls in North Korea.

All the achievements attained in the people's education work prove that the social system of our country is superior and the education policy of the Party and the Government of the Republic is correct.

On October 27, 1959, the Sixth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly passed a law for the reorganization of the people's education. In accordance with this law, the senior middle schools will be abolished and a new education system established and strengthened within two or three years. This new education system will cover all the systems of universal, adult, night and correspondence school education; teachers' training and physical training education, art and foreign language education.

The most important characteristics of the new people's education system are the establishment of two-year technical schools and two-year higher technical schools. In these schools the principle of closely combining education with production is strictly maintained so that every student may complete the middle school course, acquring more than one technique.

In accordance with the above-mentioned law, the compulsory technical education system will be enforced in 1962-1963 and the compulsory higher technical education system will be enforced some time in the near future.

The reorganization of the people's education system aims at fulfilling the task of turning the younger generation into well-developed socialist and communist constructors. This reorganization is sure to score a new victory in the development of our people's education.

In Japan

There were 371 Korean schools of all levels including one university as of April, 1960 in Japan. In these schools 46,000 students and pupils are receiving democratic national education.

Thanks to the enormous sum of educational assistance money from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan has established a comprehensive education system from primary school to university. From 1957 to 1960, the sum of money for educational assistance sent by the Government of the Republic totaled over 1,130,000,000 yen (in Japanese currency).

In 1956, the Korean University—a two-year course university—was established in Tokyo. Later, in April of 1958, it was expanded to a regular four-year course university with two faculties each of which has three courses. In June, 1959, its new school buildings were completed thanks to the educational assistance money amounting to 200,510,000 yen given by the Government of the Republic.

Scholarships are granted to poor but clever students in the University.

The teachers' training school attached to the Korean University turned out more than 500 teachers last year.

View of the main building of the Korean University

"Hagu Suhbang", a publishing house, brought out and distributed over 250,000 volumes of 63 kinds of text-books.

Scholarships are also granted to Korean students attending Japanese universities. Moreover, a bounty for the school attendance is granted to needy persons' children to ensure their school attendance.

The Educational Association of Korean Residents in Japan takes charge of the management and construction of these schools. School management expenses are covered partly by tuition fees and parent-teacher association fees on the basis of the educational assistance rendered by the Government of the Republic.

At present, 60 school buildings with over 800 classes are under construction.

The expenses needed for the construction work totaling nearly 1,400,000,000 yen are raised entirely from patriotic Korean citizens including Korean businessmen in Japan.

All the Korean schools in Japan are aimed at bringing up the younger generation to be enthusiasatic patriots capable of contribution toward peaceful unification and construction of the fatherland, and of strengthening friendship among the peoples of the world and a lasting peace all over the world. To this end, stress is laid upon patriotic education, the teaching of the mother tongue and polytechnic education, raising the level of general scientific knowledge of the students at the same time.

Main factors for the development of the school education of the Korean citizens in Japan are the warm consideration of the Government of the Republic, the correct guidance of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the consistent support of the Japanese people.

However, it cannot be said that there have been no obstacles in the way of developing the democratic national education of the Korean citizens in Japan. All the achievements we have attained in the 15 post-liberation years are the fruits of our ceaseless struggle against all the reactionaries headed by U. S. imperialism.

We are well aware that these reactionary forces are still place and will continue to place new obstacles in the way of our march forward. However, we are sure to tide over all the difficulties and win a still greater victory in our just work.

South Korea

However, the U. S. colonial policy of enslavement and war has completely destroyed the South Korean economy, with the result that people there are forced to lead a terribly hard life. And the education is in the depths of misery. The South Korean authorities are:

1. building schools just to avoid public attack for neglect of education,
2. suppressing scientists and other persons who are searching for truth,
3. frantically training soldiers to push their military policy,
4. setting up the license system to deprive students of the right and oppotunity of receiving education,
5. neglecting technical education, and
6. descriminating women against men.

These are the characteristics of the South Korean education.

In South Korea the puppet regime boasts triumphantly that compulsory education is guaranteed by the Constitution. But it is still unable to carry it out owing to its indifference to education and to financial difficulties resulting from stupendous military spending.

More than 90 per cent of the fiscal 1961 budget is provided for defense, police and administrative spending, and only three per cent for education, culture and hygiene.

The Dec. 4, 1960 issue of Chosun Ilbo (a South Korean newspaper), said in an article titled "Poor Sense of Duty" that the Korean education system was "fine in form but poor in content."

About 97 pupils are jammed in one classroom on a two or three shift system, or in the worst case, on a four or five shift system. Some schools are forced to close classes on rainy days. Moreover, South Korea is short of 12,643 teachers, the paper said.

According to even a conservative report of Chosun Ilbo (dated Dec. 7, 1959), pupils have to pay a large sum of school expenses and P. T. A. fees.

The South Korean authorities, in the name of "P. T. A. fees" or "Miscellaneous impositions," collect 65,000 million Hwan from primary schools: This is half of the currency currently issued in South Korea.

Today, in South Korea, approximately 180,0000 Hwan is required for a student to finish the primary to university course. About 1,000,000 boys and girls are aimlessly roaming in the streets, unable to go to school, as their parents are too poor to pay for their education.

"The number of working students totals about 600,000, among whom are some 20,000 students who cannot but sell their own blood in order to continue their studies," reports Sanub Kyongje Shinmoon, an economic and industrial newspaper in South Korea.

As no satisfactory sanitary measures are taken, various epidemic or chronic diseases are prevalent among students and the health condition of youth and children is rapidly getting worse day after day.

According to a report of Donga Ilbo, a physical examination of 7-21-year old pupils and students showed that 24.5 per cent of them were suffering from 28 different diseases.

Last year the number of university graduates who could get jobs was only 21.9 per cent.

Schoolable children, left out of a school, are roaming about in the streets.

About 70 percent of young men and women studying abroad on government expenses refuse to come back home.

Sanub Kyongje Shinmoon writes, "A graduation diploma is nothing but a document admitting entrance into a jobless persons" association."